

REMARKS

By the above actions, claims 50-53, 55, and 57-59 have been amended. Additionally, a complete set of replacement drawings are submitted herewith. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is requested.

At the outset, the Examiner's indication of patentable subject matter with respect to claims 55-77 and allowance of claims 78-84 has been noted with appreciations. Based thereon, claims 55 & 59 have been rewritten in independent but otherwise unchanged form so that claims 55-77 should now be in condition for allowance, and formal indication of this fact is requested.

With regard to the objection to the drawings, the above noted replacement drawings are believed to address all of the deficiencies noted and formal approval thereof is requested.

Claims 51, 57, & 58 were objected to by the Examiner. The dependency of claim 51 & 58 has been corrected, the "grooves" in claim 57 changed to "grooving" and the antecedent problem relative to the "grooves" of claim 58 corrected. Thus, the objection to these claims should now be withdrawn and such action is requested.

Claims 53 & 54 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by the Hein patent. This rejection is considered to be inappropriate, particularly insofar as it relates to these claims as now presented, for the following reasons.

Hein disclosed a pelt drying "frame" comprised a pair of legs 10, 12 that are pivotally connected at one end. It is simply unrealistic for the Examiner to assert that this structure comprises first and second arched or outwardly convex surfaces that have an open structure defining a cavity within the hollow pelt board given that the legs 10, 12 have no openings and there is not true interior cavity. Nonetheless, to advance prosecution, claim 53 has been amended to distinguish over a mere frame formed of a hinged pair of legs. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claim 50 was rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over the Horsting patent. However, to the extent that this rejection relates to amended claim 50, it should be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Horsting merely discloses a flat "frame" 1 with rolled edges 2. There is but a single openwork surface and no cavity defined between a pair of such surfaces so that there can be

no exchanging of the air within a cavity of a hollow distension element by directing a flow of air through the cavity via at least one of an opening in a foot end of the hollow distension element and openings in a protruding top portion of the hollow distension element.

Claims 51 & 52 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Hein or Hoastings when viewed in combination with the Craggs et al. patent. This rejection, at least insofar as it relates to the claims as now presented, is inappropriate for the following reasons.

First, all of the points noted above relative to Hein also related to this rejection, and all of the comments made relative to Horsting apply here as well in that neither Hein, Horstings nor Craggs et al. have a hollow chambered pelting board comparable to that disclosed and claimed here, and for this reason, as is apparent from Fig. 4, air is blow along the exterior of the pelt board of Craggs et al. and not, as now claimed, by means of an air replacement arrangement connected to a cavity of an encapsulation, openings in an upwardly facing surface of the encapsulation and an opening in the foot end of the hollow distension element. Therefore, withdrawal of these rejections is also requested.

While it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance in the absence of the discovery of new and more relevant prior art, should any issue be found to be unresolved or should any new issue arise, and the Examiner believe that such could be resolved and the prosecution advanced by discussing same with applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone

Respectfully submitted,



David S. Safran
Registration No. 27,997

Customer No. 25570

Roberts Mlotkowski & Hobbes P.C.
P.O. Box 10064
McLean, VA 22102

Direct Telephone: (703) 584-3273
DSS:kmm